

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## CRITICAL LIVING SPACE FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES SOUGHT

The critical living space requirements for 108 endangered animals in the United States are the subject of a nationwide survey by Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with special attention being given to 10 high-priority animals.

This proposal was published on May 16, 1975, in the Federal Register. Public comments are invited through July 16.

All Federal, State, and private agencies, organizations, or individuals concerned with endangered and threatened species, are asked to submit information and maps that would assist in delineating the "critical habitat" of all 108 species currently appearing on the endangered and threatened species list for the United States and Puerto Rico.

Critical habitat could be considered to be the living space necessary to the normal needs and survival of an animal. It could include space for normal growth, movements, or territorial behavior. It also could include the animal's nutritional requirements such as food, water, or minerals as well as sites for breeding, reproduction, or rearing of offspring and space for cover or shelter normally required by the animal. Additionally, the term could encompass any other biological, physical, or behavioral requirements an animal may have.

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The 10 species selected for high priority study are:

Indiana bat	San Joaquin kit fox
Mississippi sandhill crane	blunt-nosed leopard lizard
whooping crane	California condor
manatee	black-footed ferret
American peregrine falcon	palila

Under this new concept of critical habitat requirements, the destruction, disturbance, modification, curtailment, or subjection to human activity of living space considered "critical" for an animal would not conform to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 if the action might be expected to result in the reduction in numbers or distribution of the animal of sufficient magnitude to place the animal in further jeopardy, or if it restricts the potential and reasonable expansion or recovery of that animal in the wild.

Information on any of the 108 animals currently listed as endangered or threatened should be sent to: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

As sufficient information is gathered on "critical habitat" for each of the species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register. This will identify the spatial requirements, including geographic boundaries where possible, considered critical for that animal. It will also identify those elements of the environment which must be protected from adverse actions by man.

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